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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /053 W
---------- 012285
O R 161911Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1125
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 13682

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR WB GW GE US UK FR UR
SUBJECT: GDR OBSTRUCTION OF TRANSIT TO BERLIN

REFS: (A) BERLIN 6472; (B) BONN 13619; (C) BONN 13606

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE BONN GROUP HAS AGREED AD REFERENDUM TO RECOMMEND TO CAPITALS, AS REQUESTED BY THE FRG, THAT THE THREE ALLIES MAKE A DEMARCHE TO THE SOVIETS OVER THE VIOLATION OF THE SOVIET GUARANTEE IN THE QA OF UNIMPEDED ACCESS TO BERLIN. DRAFTING ON A PROPOSED TEXT WILL BE CONTINUED AUGUST 17. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT'S AGREEMENT TO DESIRABILITY OF AN ALLIED DEMARCHE.
END SUMMARY.

1. FRG REP (HENZE) BEGAN AUGUST 16 BONN GROUP MEETING BY PROVIDING FULLER BRIEFINGS ON AUGUST 12 GAUS-HONECKER MEETING, AUGUST 12 BRAEUTIGAM-SCHINDLER MEETING, AND AUGUST 13 GAUS-SCHINDLER MEETING. HIS ACCOUNTS PROVIDED SAME SUBSTANCE AS REFTELS WITH SOME
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ADDITIONAL DETAILS AND ATMOSPHERICS.

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2. HENZE EXPRESSED FRG REQUEST THAT ALLIES PROTEST THE ACTION TO SOVIETS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE ADDED THAT IN FRG VIEW, THE "ONLY PART OF THE QA WHICH HAD WORKED WELL UP TO NOW" -- TRANSIT -- HAD NOW BEEN VIOLATED. UNLESS THE ALLIES PROTESTED PROMPTLY TO THE SOVIETS, WE WOULD BE ALLOWING A PRECEDENT TO BE SET AND WOULD BE PERMITTING THE GDR TO ASSERT THAT THE END PURPOSE OF ONE'S TRAVEL TO BERLIN PROVIDED GROUNDS FOR EXCLUSION FROM THE TRANSIT ROUTES.

3. HENZE SAID THAT FRG ON AUGUST 14 HAD REQUESTED MEETING OF FRG-GDR TRANSIT COMMISSION FOR AUGUST 17 OR 18. NO GDR REPLY HAD YET BEEN RECEIVED.

4. US REP AGREED THAT QA HAD BEEN VIOLATED AND SAID THAT EMBASSY ALSO CONSIDERED THAT A PROMPT RESPONSE WAS IN ORDER. THIS WAS FIRST SERIOUS EASTERN INTERFERENCE WITH ACCESS TO BERLIN SINCE 1974. US HANDED AROUND DRAFT TEXT BASED IN PART UPON PROTEST TO SOVIETS ON 1974 FEA TRANSIT OBSTRUCTION.

5. UK REP (CARTER) GAVE PARALLEL ASSESSMENT WHILE NOTING THAT ALLIED PROTEST MIGHT BETTER WAIT UNTIL THE OUTCOME OF THE FRG-GDR TRANSIT COMMISSION DISCUSSIONS. SIMILAR VIEWS WERE PRESENTED BY FRENCH REP (LASSUS).

6. BOTH FRG AND US REPS RENEWED ARGUMENTS FOR PROMPT ALLIED ACTION, AND AT THE END OF THE DAY, BONN GROUP REACHED AD REF AGREEMENT ON RECOMMENDATION THAT ALLIES PROTEST VIOLATION OF QA IN MOSCOW IN MANNER SIMILAR TO FEA PROTEST. TO MEET UK AND FRENCH CONCERNS, IT WAS AGREED THAT ACTUAL DELIVERY OF THE DEMARCHE WOULD

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SS-15 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /053 W
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INFO USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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BE RECONSIDERED IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT THAT THE GDR CAME FORWARD WITH A PROMPT AND ACCEPTABLE EXPLANATION IN THE TRANSIT COMMISSION.

7. GENERAL AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON OUTLINE OF TEXT WITH UK TO PROVIDE FRESH DRAFT IN AUGUST 17 MEETING. MEANWHILE, ALL REPS ARE SEEKING REACTION OF CAPITALS TO GENERAL PRINCIPLE OF A DEMARCHE TO SOVIETS.

8. COMMENT: THE FRG REQUEST FOR AN ALLIED DEMARCHE OBVIOUSLY REFLECTS HIGH LEVEL FRG DESIRES. DURING A CONVERSATION WITH POLCOUN SHORTLY BEFORE BONN GROUP MEETING TODAY, LOECK OF THE FEDERAL CHANCELLERY CITED THE ATTENTION THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT HAD GIVEN TO THE TRANSIT INCIDENT AND THE INTEREST THAT THE CHANCELLOR HAD SHOWN IN ALLIED ACTION. HE SAID THE CHANCELLOR DEEPLY APPRECIATED THE PROMPT BONN GROUP ACTION OF AUGUST 14 AND PARTICULARLY APPRECIATED THE AMERICAN CONFIDENTIAL

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ROLE IN BRINGING IT ABOUT. HE ADDED THAT THE CHANCELLOR HOPED THE ALLIES WOULD PROTEST TO THE SOVIETS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, NOT WAITING FOR THE RESULTS OF THE TRANSIT COMMISSION MEETING BEFORE FORMULATING AND -- IF APPROPRIATE -- PRESENTING THEIR PROTEST TO THE SOVIETS.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT DEPARTMENT AGREE IN PRINCIPLE TO DESIRABILITY OF PROCEEDING WITH PREPARATION OF A DEMARCHE TO THE SOVIETS, ON UNDERSTANDING THAT TEXT WILL ALSO BE REVIEWED BY THE DEPARTMENT ONCE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED IN THE BONN GROUP.
HILLENBRAND

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Draft Date: 16 AUG 1976
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